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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented): A drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material, comprising:

a material storage processing tank including a heating and drying chamber having at its lower end a discharge port and therein a thermal conductive heating means, and including a hopper chamber connected to the upper end of said heating and drying chamber for storing therein a powdered or granular material to be heated and dried; and

a decompression means for depressurizing the inside of said material storage processing tank, wherein

said thermal conductive heating means comprises an outer tube unit having a first heater provided in a tube wall and a plurality of fins for conducting the heat of said first heater projected from the inside of said tube wall into the center and spaced in its circumferential direction, wherein

the powdered or granular material stored in said material storage processing tank is heated and dried by said thermal conductive heating means in said heating and drying chamber while said material storage processing tank is depressurized, and wherein

the powdered or granular material stored in said hopper chamber is fed into said heating and drying chamber by gravitation accompanied by the discharge of the heated and dried powdered or granular material from said discharge port.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 13, wherein said thermal conductive heating means further comprises an inner tube unit having a pillar body hung at the center of said outer tube unit, a second heater embedded in said pillar body, and a plurality of fins for conducting the heat of said second heater.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 14, wherein said tube wall and said fins of said outer

tube unit, and said pillar body and said fins of said inner tube unit are all made of a highly heat conductive metal.

Claim 16 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim [[13 or]] 14 or 15, wherein said pillar body has at its lower end a rectifier whose diameter is enlarged downwardly.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein

said hopper chamber has an opening at its upper end and an open-close cover for airtightly closing the opening, and wherein

a powdered or granular material to be heated and dried is capable of being fed in said material storage processing tank by opening said open-close cover.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein:

said hopper chamber has an opening at a part of the upper end and a charge hopper is further provided on the opening via a discharge valve; and wherein

a powdered or granular material to be heated and dried is capable of being fed in said material storage processing tank by opening said discharge valve.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in any one of claim 13 to 15, wherein a carrier gas introduction means by which a carrier gas is introduced into said material storage processing tank is further provided at said material storage processing tank.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 16, wherein a carrier gas introduction means by which a carrier gas is introduced into said material storage processing tank is further provided at said material storage processing tank.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 17, wherein a carrier gas introduction means by which a carrier gas is introduced into said material storage processing tank is further provided at said material storage processing tank.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 18, wherein a carrier gas introduction means by which a carrier gas is introduced into said material storage processing tank is further provided at said material storage processing tank.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A feeding system of powdered or granular material comprising said drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in any one of claims 13 to 15 and a feeder unit provided at said discharge port of said drying and storing apparatus,

said feeder unit being connected with a transportation line for introducing a compressed air and a pneumatic transportation pipe connected with a collector at its distal end, wherein

the powdered or granular material dried in said drying and storing apparatus is transported in said pneumatic transportation pipe by a compressed air introduced from said transportation line while being discharged from said discharge port, and then is once collected in said collector, and thereafter is fed into a processing apparatus for powdered or granular material.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The feeding system of powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 23, wherein

a compressed air supply line for introducing a compressed air is provided at the upper stream of said transportation line and said feeder unit is further provided with a circulation pipe communicated with said material storage processing tank and with a circulation line branched from said compressed air supply line; and wherein

said powdered or granular material discharged from said drying and storing apparatus is pneumatically transported in said circulation pipe by a compressed air introduced

from said circulation line, thereby enabling circulation into said material storage processing tank.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A feeding system of powdered or granular material comprising said drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 19 and a feeder unit provided at said discharge port of said drying and storing apparatus:

said feeder unit being connected with a transportation line connecting a compressed air supply line for introducing a compressed air at the upper stream and a pneumatic transportation pipe connected with a collector at the distal end, wherein

the powdered or granular material dried in said drying and storing apparatus is transported in said pneumatic transportation pipe by a compressed air introduced from said transportation line while being discharged from said discharge port, and then is once collected in said collector, and thereafter is fed into a processing apparatus for powdered or granular material, and wherein

said carrier gas introduction means has a purge line which is diverged from said compressed air supply line and is connected around said discharge port.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A feeding system of powdered or granular material comprising said drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 20 and a feeder unit provided at said discharge port of said drying and storing apparatus:

said feeder unit being connected with a transportation line connecting a compressed air supply line for introducing a compressed air at the upper stream and a pneumatic transportation pipe connected with a collector at the distal end, wherein

the powdered or granular material dried in said drying and storing apparatus is transported in said pneumatic transportation pipe by a compressed air introduced from said transportation line while being discharged from said discharge port, and then is once collected in said collector, and thereafter is fed into a processing apparatus for powdered or granular material, and wherein

said carrier gas introduction means has a purge line which is diverged from said compressed air supply line and is connected around said discharge port.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A feeding system of powdered or granular material comprising said drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 21 and a feeder unit provided at said discharge port of said drying and storing apparatus:

said feeder unit being connected with a transportation line connecting a compressed air supply line for introducing a compressed air at the upper stream and a pneumatic transportation pipe connected with a collector at the distal end, wherein

the powdered or granular material dried in said drying and storing apparatus is transported in said pneumatic transportation pipe by a compressed air introduced from said transportation line while being discharged from said discharge port, and then is once collected in said collector, and thereafter is fed into a processing apparatus for powdered or granular material, and wherein

said carrier gas introduction means has a purge line which is diverged from said compressed air supply line and is connected around said discharge port.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A feeding system of powdered or granular material comprising said drying and storing apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 22 and a feeder unit provided at said discharge port of said drying and storing apparatus:

said feeder unit being connected with a transportation line connecting a compressed air supply line for introducing a compressed air at the upper stream and a pneumatic transportation pipe connected with a collector at the distal end, wherein

the powdered or granular material dried in said drying and storing apparatus is transported in said pneumatic transportation pipe by a compressed air introduced from said transportation line while being discharged from said discharge port, and then is once collected in said collector, and thereafter is fed into a processing apparatus for powdered or granular material, and wherein

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said carrier gas introduction means has a purge line which is diverged from said compressed air supply line and is connected around said discharge port.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The feeding system of powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 23, wherein said powdered or granular material is resin pellet and said processing apparatus of powdered or granular material is a resin molding machine.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The feeding system of powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 24, wherein said powdered or granular material is resin pellet and said processing apparatus of powdered or granular material is a resin molding machine.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The feeding system of powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 25, wherein said powdered or granular material is resin pellet and said processing apparatus of powdered or granular material is a resin molding machine.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The feeding system of powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 26, wherein said powdered or granular material is resin pellet and said processing apparatus of powdered or granular material is a resin molding machine.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The feeding system of powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 27, wherein said powdered or granular material is resin pellet and said processing apparatus of powdered or granular material is a resin molding machine.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The feeding system of powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 28, wherein said powdered or granular material is resin pellet and said processing apparatus of powdered or granular material is a resin molding machine.

Claim 35 (canceled)